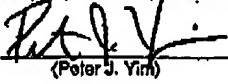


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Dated: August 17, 2006 Signature:   
(Peter J. Yim)

AUG 17 2006

Docket No.: 509982005700  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Joerg BISCHOFF et al.

Application No.: 10/696,246

Confirmation No.: 7040

Filed: October 28, 2003

Art Unit: 2877

For: AZIMUTHAL SCANNING OF A STRUCTURE  
FORMED ON A SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER

Examiner: S. Nguyen

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated May 17, 2006 (Paper No. 20060502), for which a response is due on August 17, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Additionally, this response is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

sf-2180379